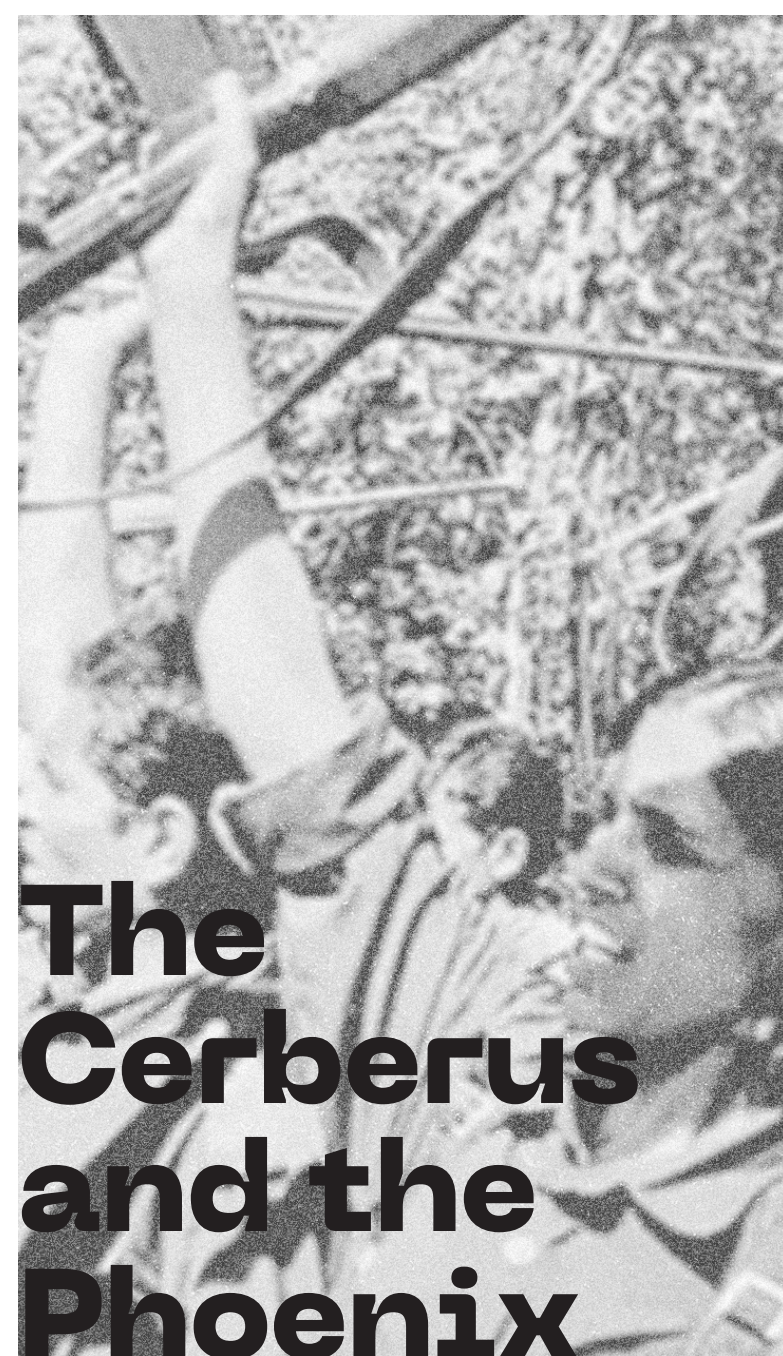


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The Cerberus and the Phoenix

ty, no matter its severity, it will erupt once more, even stronger and more boisterous than before from its ashes. This is characterized as the ability of the formation to self-criticize, learn from past defeats, and develop new strategies and tactics to overcome not only the Basilisk and its ill intentions, but all revisionist and opportunist tendencies and individuals sleuthing within its ranks.

It is these two tendencies we must develop and strengthen in this modern wage of revolt, and utilize them to strike at the vital organs and weak points of the Basilisk with no hesitation, and by any means necessary, *literally*. When ready, the formation, shadowed by the apparition of the Cerberus and the Phoenix, must develop a well-tuned political-propaganda machine and keep it churning 24/7. Many Phoenix and many Cerberus must work together to destroy every organ of this Basilisk so that we may finally strangle it and build something new. When able, the formation must chamber its weapons, and let loose the fire of the revolution upon the Basilisk. It must not hesitate to reap the spoils of the Basilisk's imperial ventures, it must not be apprehensive about taking from the allies and bootlickers of the empire.

Take from its banks, take from its clothing stores, take from its supermarkets and give, give, give of it all to the people, and they shall allow you to become "Born Trouble." They shall allow you to become the "Masters of Disaster." So be it.

Further reading

The Dragon and the Hydra: a study of organizational methods by Russel Maroon Shoatz

A Soldier's Story by Kuwasi Balagoon

Revolutionary Armed Struggle by an anonymous member of the BLA

Activist Study by Communist Party of the Philippines

Black Armed Joy by Black Insurrectionary Anarchists

therefore the advancement of our formations. That is to say, we discover the duality of the Cerberus and the Phoenix.

The Fighting Formation of the militant within the Basilisk's clutches today must mimic the characteristics of both these beasts. The Cerberus is a stalwart and mighty watch-dog, guarding the entryway to the enslaved and colonized masses' homes. It is multiheaded like the Hydra, and so will not be felled unless all of its minds are obliterated, each one able to think and act independently of the other. This is a synthesis of the decentralized nature of the Hydra. In the imperial core, however, the guerilla struggle will be primarily an urban one. Unlike the Hydra, the Cerberus does not rove into unfamiliar territory. The Cerberus guards their people and knows their locality. When the masses are attacked, the Cerberus defends. Unlike the Hydra, dogs are social animals and they run with a pack. If one Cerberus is killed, their pack comes to seek vengeance. No attacker will escape unscathed.

The Phoenix is an above-ground formation, inspiring vigor and zeal in the masses as the Dragon does with its ever burning flames and its majesty. With its wings, the Phoenix flies high to illuminate new opportunities and possibilities. With its call it harkens the masses to the battlefield, and with its fire it protects the Cerberus. Without the warmth and call of the Phoenix, The Cerberus dies alone in the shadows. Like the Dragon, the Phoenix represents a well-centralized, well-organized Cadre, democratically of course. This centralization is necessary to create and maintain a strong-political line that draws from the military victories of the Cerberus to agitate and militate the populous. In the midst of the storm, we can no longer rely on organizations and presses aligned with the state to protect our people. Hierarchies always emerge in any community and they will defer towards prioritizing enemies if the Phoenix does not create a hierarchy for itself. It is the duty of any cadre to ensure that their leadership in the hierarchy maintains its duty—to the masses and to the cadre—and that the cadre is beholden to the masses and not vice versa. No member of the leadership is irreplaceable or above criticism and those who position themselves as such will be shed like dead skin.

This Phoenix, unlike the Dragon, finds its strength in its ability to resurrect itself despite any ill occurrence. When the Dragon has its belly cut, its throat stuffed, it will die. When the Phoenix is faced with adversi-

Russel Maroon Shoatz's (Rest In Power) *The Dragon and the Hydra: A Historical Study of Organizational Methods* describes the two prevalent frameworks of our predecessors' fighting formations.

Afterwards, I hope that you do your own in depth research and study, because to most people the bulk of this history will be unfamiliar. Then you can decide whether such organizational forms and methods would be useful to us in our struggle to save ourselves and the planet: The Dragon and the Hydra... We can clearly measure the strengths and weaknesses of our dragon and hydra: centralized and decentralized forces of change....Tightly organized and courageous army represents my dragon... against the tendency of the dragons to concentrate oppressive power in its hands. And the Hydra: ... [A] Hydra.... a many headed monster whose heads regrew when struck off.... the largest and longest constellation in the sky, but with no particular bright star. "....The [Dutch] imperialists tried their best to slay the Hydra! They failed. Was it because the Maroons decentralized formations prevented the Dutch from concentrating their superior resources against any one centralized leadership – any bright star? I think so....The decentralized hydra elements launching the revolution."

We come to understand the Dragon is a tightly organized large scale organization that seeks to control the masses and when wresting “state power,” from the enemy create a new bureaucratic ruling class from its ranks. Whereas the Hydra is a decentralized organization comprised of autonomous units and groupings that meet and wage struggle with a shared consensus with no prerogative to instill itself as an overbearing administrator of the masses and their will. Therefore:

The historical records of our dragon hydra are clear. The choice is yours as to which you will choose....

Instead of rallying and coalescing around concepts already known and appropriated by our enemy, we develop and advance these ideas as “good” revolutionaries must. From the Dragon or the Hydra, we must advance our strategies and evolve into the Cerberus and the Phoenix:

We understand that all strategies no matter their advantages, universality or relevance must evolve and advance themselves in respect to an ever-growing enemy: this enemy in particular being the United States Empire. We describe this foe as a Basilisk with many heads. The Basilisk is the King of Snakes and may fell its foes with a mere glance. This Basilisk is multi-headed, its networks are expansive and pervasive. Its venomous grip has infiltrated and poisoned almost every part of the New “New Left”—the Post-Ferguson Left.

Our predecessors had to make the distinction between the composition of their fighting formations. Should they be the Dragon, or should they be the Hydra? We liken the Dragon to organizations and coalitions such as the Black Panther Party, the American Indian Movement, the Young Lords. Dragons that still live include: the Communist Party of the Philippines and their New Peoples Army and the Communist Party of India (Maoist). A rising dragon in this newest era could be The League of Poor Peasants within Brazil. Such Hydras to have their heads lopped off by the enemy include: The Black Liberation Army, The Guerrillas of Brazil (The National Liberation Action and their comrades), The November 17th Movement, and The Red Army Fraction of Germany among others. Within the Belly of the Beast, only the Hydra, namely the Black Liberation Army has ever sent shivers down the spine of the Basilisk, and for good reason.

The Black Liberation Army made good on its politico-military line, its prerogatives. To secure the self-determination of the New Afrikan populace through protracted people’s war. The Black Liberation Army is the only military apparatus that existed within the Belly of the Beast to strike at the innards of the Basilisk, repetitiously and successfully. The only faults of the BLA was that some of its captured boots (soldiers/infantry) cracked under pressure and turned informant; instead of dutifully giving their life to the struggle of the masses, they betrayed the trust of their cadre, their people, and their ideals. However, the Black Liberation Army had no Pigs in Wolves’ clothing, that is to say, there were no agents of the empire already skulking within the ranks of the BLA. Unlike their “forbearer,” the BPP, many of the BLA’s direct actions were victorious: it was only the serpentine reach of the Basilisk that allowed it to track and fell these dutiful soldiers of the BLA.

The Black Liberation Army is the prime example of the Hydra. Each of its cells interacted with one another on a “need-to-know” basis. No cell was privy to the schemes of another, and very few individuals were allowed to be members of more than one cell. Each cell had its specific prerogative, such as the Revolutionary Armed Task Force (RATF) that focused on expropriations, the Harriet Tubman and George Jackson Brigades that focused on liberating captured comrades, and smaller unnamed cells such as the one Jalil Muntaqim belonged to that focused on the assassinations of enemy soldiers. Each of these firing groups were democratically centralized on the intentions and basis of their desire and creed to wage an armed struggle both in the urban and rural plantations. They were decentralized in the tactics and initiative they enacted; that is, while they shared the same strategies, the activation of these schemes were left to the autonomy of the individual cell and its occupants. This is the Hydra. A many headed beast that cannot be slain before severing all of its heads. *This is the enemy the Basilisk feared. However, as analyzed by the survivors of this Hydra Formation, the Black Liberation Army did not have an adequate political device to mobilize and rouse the masses consecutively.* As their war came to its peak, they grew more ostracized from the enslaved and colonized masses, not at their own fault for lack of infrastructure of revolutionary media and vehicles, and the Basilisk’s own omnipresent, and all-encompassing narrative control.

It is from these successes and failures we draw the evolution and